

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-11 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 5-6, and 10-11 are independent. In the Office Action dated August 14, 2003, Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Following this response, Claims 12-22 remain in this application. Applicant hereby addresses the Examiner's rejections in turn.

I. Amendments to the Drawings

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, it is proposed to replace two drawing sheets, one containing FIGs. 6A, 6B, 6C, and the other containing FIGs. 8A, 8B, and 8C, with the two attached respective replacement drawing sheets containing FIGs. 6A, 6B, 6C, 8A, 8B, and 8C. Applicant has amended FIGs. 6C, 8A, and 8B and submits that the amendments add no new matter.

II. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action dated August 14, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,094,723 ("*Otsuka*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,373,507 ("*Camara*"). Claims 1-11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

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III. New Claims

Claims 12-22 have been added to more distinctly define the invention to which Applicant is entitled. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable over the cited art and that they add no new matter.

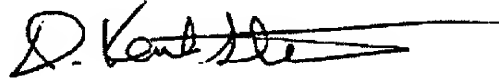
IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

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